

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 12-16, 18, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 13-16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,270,775 to Suzuki. Claims 5, 12, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki as described in claims 1, 10, and/or 15, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,543,892 to Hirata et al. (herein "Hirata").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants wish to clarify comments presented in the previous Response filed June 28, 2004. In that Response comments were presented directed to Suzuki not sending message data to the data communication device "via the telephone network". Those previously presented comments were erroneous as the claims were amended to no longer refer to a "telephone" network.

Each of independent Claims 1, 10, 15, 16, and 20 is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent Claim 1 now clarifies that the input means inputs *holiday data of the center system and* the customer system. That amendment is presented to clarify that holiday data of the center system is input. The other independent claims are similarly amended as in independent Claim 1 noted above.

The above-noted claim amendments clarify that in the claims holiday data for the center system is considered in setting an early message date for data communication device connected on the network. Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The Office Action relies upon Suzuki to teach the input of holiday data of the center system and/or the customer system by the entry key on the keyboard of Figure 3, and as

disclosed in Suzuki at column 9, lines 15-67. In that respect, applicants note the keyboard 43 in Suzuki can input calendar information for each of different local offices, namely each of the local offices 1-1 to 1-N where a relay apparatus 2 is installed, see for example Figures 1 and 2 in Suzuki.

Suzuki does not disclose or suggest that calendar information for a *center system*, for example a headquarters where the host computer 41 in Suzuki is installed, can be input. Thus, Suzuki is not believed to teach the features now clarified in the claims.

Moreover, applicants note the reasons why the holiday data input by the keyboard 43 in Suzuki is not calendar information for the center system, i.e. the host computer 41 in Suzuki, is that the management system taught by Suzuki is provided so that the high-order host computer of the center system requests sending of information from the local offices (the relay apparatus or the terminal) by a network, and the local offices, upon receipt of the request, transmit the request information to the center system by the network, respectively. In Suzuki the local offices (the relay apparatus or the terminal) are not provided to autonomously transmit information to the center system by the network. For this reason, in Suzuki it is not necessary for the local offices to recognize calendar information for a center system; that is in Suzuki it is not necessary for the local offices 1-1 to 1-N to recognize calendar information for the host computer 41.

In such ways, the claims as currently written are believed to clearly distinguish over the teachings in Suzuki.

Moreover, no teachings in Hirata were cited with respect to the above-noted features and the teaching in Hirata are not believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Suzuki.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other features are pending in this application, applicants respectfully submit the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

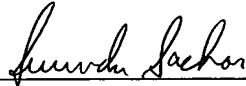
Respectfully submitted,

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